



Public Involvement

If there is one take away from the public involvement efforts completed as part of this planning process, it is this: the Columbia River Gorge is a source of inspiration. The second is that this planning process is not the first time that the future vision of the Gorge has been planned for nor is it likely to be the last. Much thought and consideration has been given to recreation and scenic value in the National Scenic Area and to Oregon State Parks in the Gorge. Over the decades, several concepts have been identified. Therefore, this planning process for Oregon State Parks in the Gorge focuses on choreographing unrealized ideas with existing recreation opportunities and emerging management needs into a unified park system that fits within the larger National Scenic Area visitor experience. Coordination at this level, including several existing plans, requires an elevated level of engagement with the many people and agencies that have been focused on the subject of the Columbia River Gorge for so long.



Advisory Committee members meet to share information and ideas in January 2014

Outreach and Engagement

The initial step of engaging the public and creating awareness of the planning process was through developing the website: www.gorgeparksplan.com. The website was a centralized database for schedule updates, proposals, and meeting materials, allowing people the opportunity to directly comment in a public forum. Announcing meetings through the website was also helpful as it allowed partners to link to the site for updates or meeting times. In addition to the website public outreach was conducted via press releases, a quarter-mile mailing list to addresses around state parks, newspaper notifications, and radio interviews.

Tools for communication and outreach:

1. Values Based approach
2. Website out reach
3. Media out-reach
4. Communicating information and ideas
5. Public meeting check-ins, 1, 2, 3, & 4
6. Advisory committee
7. Stakeholder conversations.

Values Based Approach

During the planning process, the community was asked describe values to help guide and define proposed management actions. OPRD looks to the community to help identify potential opportunities, conflicts, and desired outcomes for the property. The values developed in the public process describe the sense of place desired in potential outcomes for management actions. These values help to develop an analysis framework to view the resource inventories and recreation assessments, so that a better sense of future condition or experience can be defined that is relevant to the landscape.

At the first public meeting and through an online survey the public was asked the following questions:

1. *The first thing I think of when someone mentions the Columbia River Gorge is...*
2. *The most important thing about the Gorge is...*
3. *The benefits I get from visiting state parks in the Gorge are....*
4. *I would like the comprehensive plan for Oregon State Parks in the Gorge to CHANGE...*
5. *I would like the comprehensive plan for Oregon State Parks in the Gorge to ADD...*
6. *I would like the comprehensive plan for Oregon State Parks in the Gorge to KEEP...*

The answers to these questions helped to identify the following value statements:

Value 1: Scenic Beauty

We value the aesthetic grandeur of the Columbia River Gorge as a source of inspiration.

Value 2: Heritage

We value the current and future generations of people who were drawn to the Gorge, their stories and cultures that have shaped the land we know today.

Value 3: Recreation

In the Gorge we value recreation as a way of life, providing an outdoor place to explore, play and recharge through a variety of activities.

Value 4: Natural Resources

We value protection and enhancement of the unique habitats, characteristic of the Columbia Gorge landscape, that support a diverse range of species.

Value 5: Community

We value the connections that the Gorge provides and being a part of the communities that interact along a shared path.

These values are discussed in detail, and help create a framework for park proposals in *Chapter 7: Values, Benefits, and Strategies*.

Organizing information and Ideas

The Gorge is a place of great complexity. As the earlier chapters on existing conditions show, there are many details to understand about this wonderful place. When planning, it is incredibly easy to get lost in these details and to have extended conversations while trying to understand what location in the Gorge is being discussed. Is it Mitchell Point or Post Canyon? Is it Latourell Falls or Guy Talbot? Different relationships with the land result in different names. Local residents, park managers, engineers, biologists, and tourists all have different understandings of this complex place.

A connectivity diagram of the Gorge was developed to communicate and help the public quickly make sense of how the several dozen state park properties fit into the region. This diagram depicts all state park properties as 'stations' in green, alongside other recreation facilities in orange, arranged along simplified lines that represent the major multi-modal transpiration networks, hiking trails, and rivers. The map offers a simple, scaled representation of how recreationalists connect to parks and cities in the Gorge. As a planning tool, the map allows people to visualize data about park amenities and characteristics on a single page. It is helpful in understanding relationships across landownership for virtually any condition: natural resources, facilities, visitor experience, or cultural assets and it effectively describes the multilayered visitor experience that is a trip through the Columbia River Gorge with many possible stops in Oregon State Parks.



The kick-off public meeting in August 2013

Public Meetings

Public meetings were hosted four times throughout the planning process, with each round including a west end meeting, east end meeting, and advisory committee meeting. Notes from these public meetings are available in the appendix.

Meeting I. Kick Off: Welcome & Public Comment August 2013

At the first set of meetings, state parks in the Columbia Gorge management area were introduced and it was explained how the comprehensive planning process would set the vision and management of those parks for the next 15-20 years. OPRD staff listened to the voices of local citizens from the communities that are in the Gorge and also the voices of those who love to visit. The public shared what they value about state parks in the Gorge and the benefits they provide.

Meeting II. Assessments January 2014

OPRD conducted existing condition assessments for Gorge state parks (including resource and visitor experience assessments) to better understand opportunities and constraints in the management of our park system. At the second set of public meetings OPRD representatives presented these findings. Community members and park staff also worked together to prioritize the most important values, strategies, and actions to guide the comprehensive planning and design efforts for all state parks in the Gorge.

Meeting III. Concept Alternatives April/May 2014

At the third set of public meetings OPRD representatives presented concept plans for state parks in the Gorge and listened to public comment. These plans included major schematic designs for seven parks in the Gorge, including two new development areas at West Mayer and Wyeth. In addition to these seven parks, smaller proposals were included on a large diagram, outlining how improvements contributed to several different recreation activities, throughout the Gorge, while coordinating with existing recreation facilities.

Meeting IV. Draft Comprehensive Plan Review October 2014

At the final set of public meetings in the comprehensive planning process, planning staff presented the draft plan. The draft plan includes summaries of the existing condition assessments, public input, the resulting values and desired benefits of the parks, and final recommendations for the future vision and management of the state parks in the Columbia River Gorge.

Advisory Committee

The advisory committee is made up of partner agencies, neighboring land management agencies, stakeholders, recreation interest groups, and local municipalities. Representatives from these groups sit on the committee to advise the planning process, as well as take news of the planning process back to their agencies. This group is especially important to the planning process, helping to identify and analyze issues and opportunities that are multi-faceted and require partnership solutions. A full list of advisory committee members can be found at the beginning of the plan.



Members of the public examine preliminary planning proposals at one of the April/May public meetings

Public Comment: Oregon State Parks Gorge Management Unit Plan Comments

The comments in this chapter were compiled with input from an advisory committee, OPRD staff and consultants, local officials, affected agencies and interest groups, tribal representatives and members of the public. Understanding the community needs and public expectations of a state park is an essential element of creating a comprehensive plan. During the process for the Gorge state parks plan, OPRD has implemented approaches to maximize the opportunity for comment and issue identification.

The opportunities to comment and efforts to raise awareness have included:

- Four sets of public meetings scheduled to increase awareness and gather comments
- Creation of a mailing list, including park neighbors
- Press releases
- Written comment periods
- A website with interactive comment capability
- Special meetings with relevant stakeholders
- Engagement with neighbors groups to comment on park proposals
- Issues raised and captured in the resource assessment process
- Advisory Committee made up of locals, agency partners, resource professionals, and community leaders to provide guidance and comment
- OPRD Commission input
- Meetings with OPRD staff for guidance and comment
- Media releases to increase awareness of the planning process
- Newsletters to mailing list.

Many of these opportunities yielded excellent feedback and comments that are reflected in the overall planning document. This section addresses the issues that were identified during the outreach process and summarizes responses to these issues.

During the planning process, OPRD reviewed hundreds of public comments that came from public meetings, advisory committee, planning website, correspondence, phone calls, partner agencies, OPRD staff, and informal external sources (such as online responses to news stories). The public discussion is summarized below and informs the values, goals and management strategies contained in the following chapters of the plan. Four major categories emerged from the public discussion: recreation needs, natural resource concerns, community values, and management issues.

Recreation Needs

“Provide a dog walking, off-leash, and dog swim area. There is nowhere near Hood River or in the east Gorge to bring your dog.”

“Sandy River Delta is wildly popular with both on and off-leash dog owners, and cannot meet the demand for this type of recreation. Does Rooster Rock State Park offer possibilities for expanded off-leash trails/areas during the off-season? Could part of the excess parking be converted to some type of canine agility course or some other canine activity?”

“Provide additional water access for swimming and water sports.”

“More bike facilities – to encourage both long- tour bikers and 15-20 mile outings.”

“Complete the Highway State Trail from Wyeth to Hood River.”

“I love the trail proposals but differentiate between ‘need to have’ and ‘need to make safe.’”

“More restrooms are needed.”

“Priority should be giving some relief to the Angel’s Rest trail and increasing trail miles closer to Portland. A restroom for Angel’s Rest would go a long way towards eliminating side trails used as bathrooms.”

"I've seen some other proposed trails that weren't mentioned. For example, a Bridal Veil Canyon Trail to the upper waterfalls is a great idea I don't see here. And I also don't see any mention of adding any new parks."

"Develop a trail connection between Post Canyon, Wygant Trail and Mitchell Point trail head. This would be accomplished by rerouting the existing Mitchell Point trail and combine with Wygant Trail west up the next drainage to create a more sustainable and gentle trail suitable for bikes that has sufficient turns to keep speed low."

"I think we need cabins or yurts at Memaloose. People come from international areas, and they buy all this camping gear so that they can camp, but how can they camp without buying tons of gear?"

"Prioritize more trails and trail connections."

"Could you please fix the boat ramp at West Mayer?"

"More programs in parks to attract users in shoulder seasons."

"At Viento and Koberg there should be clearer signage permitting migratory bird hunting consistent with East and West Mayer State Park."

"Bridal Veil Canyon Trail to the upper waterfalls is a great idea that I don't see in the proposals."

"Prioritize children's natural play areas."

"Does State Parks still own lands by Squally Point? Maybe in 20 years it could be a spot for water access."

OPRD Response: Squally Point is identified as a State Natural Reserve in the 2010 Oregon Natural Areas Plan and therefore development and access is not encouraged. Squally Point Dunes represent the only remaining Columbia River Gorge sand dunes on the mainland. This dune ecosystem characterized The Dalles area before the construction of The Dalles Dam. This site provides the

only opportunity for observing this vanishing habitat in Oregon. In addition, even if the area were not a State Reserve, safe access would require a pedestrian railroad crossing, which would be extremely expensive to construct.

"We used to be able to access the river at Memaloose and now it is restricted."

OPRD Response: Access to the river at Memaloose requires illegally crossing the Union Pacific Railroad. While we understand that there is historical use, it is illegal and increased traffic on the railroad has resulted in some near tragic close calls. Park management has installed a fence to alert people to the constant risk of illegally crossing the railroad.

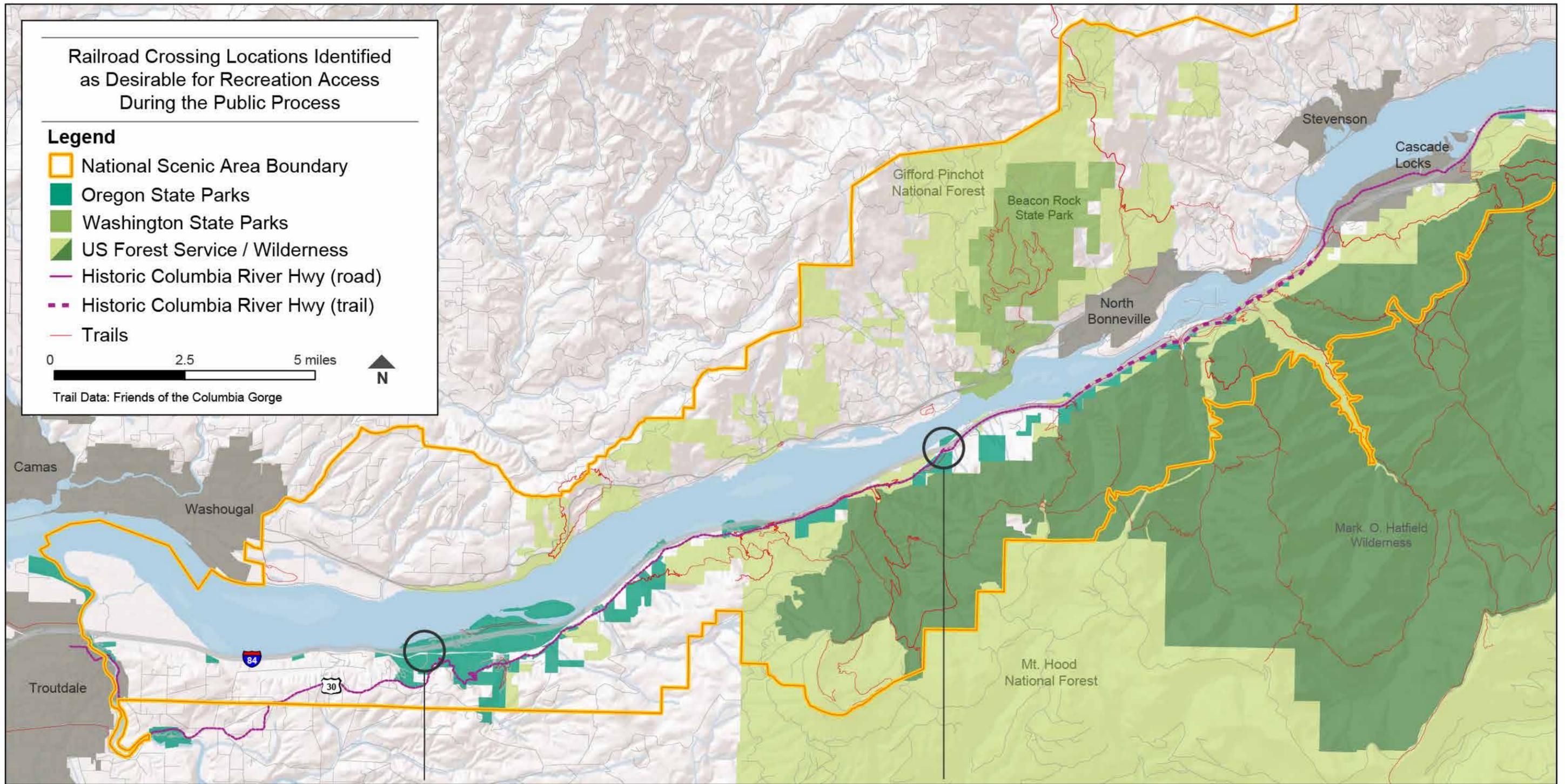
We have identified the need for a pedestrian crossing at Memaloose based on input at public meetings, however site visits found there to be challenges in finding an area with enough land on either side of

the track to construct a crossing that met universal access needs.

As increased pedestrian access points to the river has been a theme at our meetings and safe river access has been an expressed need to our visitors, OPRD will plan to conduct a Gorge-wide Pedestrian River Access Feasibility study to gain a deeper understanding of where railroad crossings might be feasible based on available area for crossing, natural resource protection, recreation potential, and scenic potential among other factors. See Figure 5.1 for locations to be considered in the study.

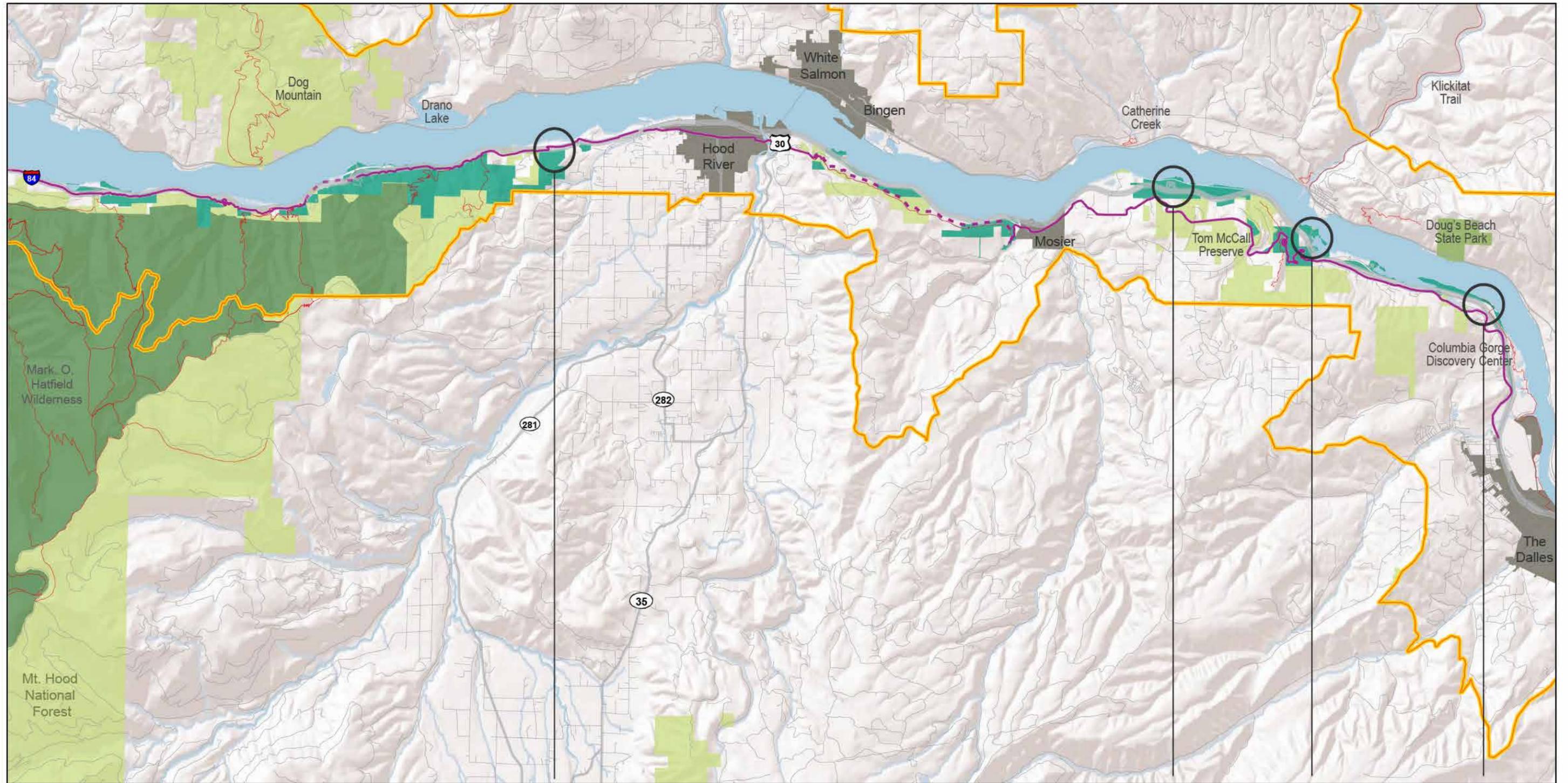


Public comments on a map of state parks in the Gorge



W3
W7
Portland Women's Forum & Rooster Rock
 Restore historic road as a connection trail

W13
Ainsworth
 Improve existing at-grade Union Pacific crossing to provide river access



E6 Mitchell Point:
 Vincenz Lausman
 to the Baumann
 Property (Columbia
 Gorge Environmental
 Foundation)

E10 Memaloose
 Provide access
 from campsite

E12 West Mayer
 Restore historic
 Union Pacific & I-84
 crossing into wild-
 life/pedestrian
 crossing to Rowena

E13 East Mayer
 Provide legal
 access to
 Squally Point

Figure 5.1 Locations Identified During the Public Process of Potential Pedestrian River Access Points

Cultural and Natural Resources

“OPRD should acquire, restore and operate the Viewpoint Inn (the last operating roadhouse on the Historic Columbia River Highway) and make it a State Heritage Site, as they did with the Frenchglen Hotel, which is well thought of.”

“Provide sites that focus on fishwheels and on sites significant to Native Americans, especially at Cascades and The Dalles—where human habitation goes back 10,000 years or more. In celebrating the Gorge I think the human history pre-settlement should be addressed via interpretation.”

“More interpretive signage to understand natural and cultural history.”

“The Re-routed road to the river should not have an impact on Viento Creek. “

“I would like to add to calls for consideration of a wayside educational tribute to this generous man, Mr. George Shepperd. We are heirs to his contribution of his wonderful property.”

Community Values

“I feel there are opportunities to strengthen the relationship between the local communities and our neighboring state parks; to build a sense of ownership and responsible, curious stewardship.”

“There is a key equity issue in providing parks that have no fee associated with them at parks. Please continue to provide low cost options so that all people can enjoy parks.”

Park Management:

“Parking at Angel’s Rest is inadequate. It is dangerous parking along the road. Bridal Veil Falls could use more parking.”

“Spread out hikers to address trail overuse and parking issues.”

“Wait to provide additional parking at Portland Women’s Forum without clearly addressing crime, vandalism, maintenance, and traffic issues.”

“As park areas are expanded will there be adequate funding to staff them (including Multnomah County Sheriff’s Department Officers)?”

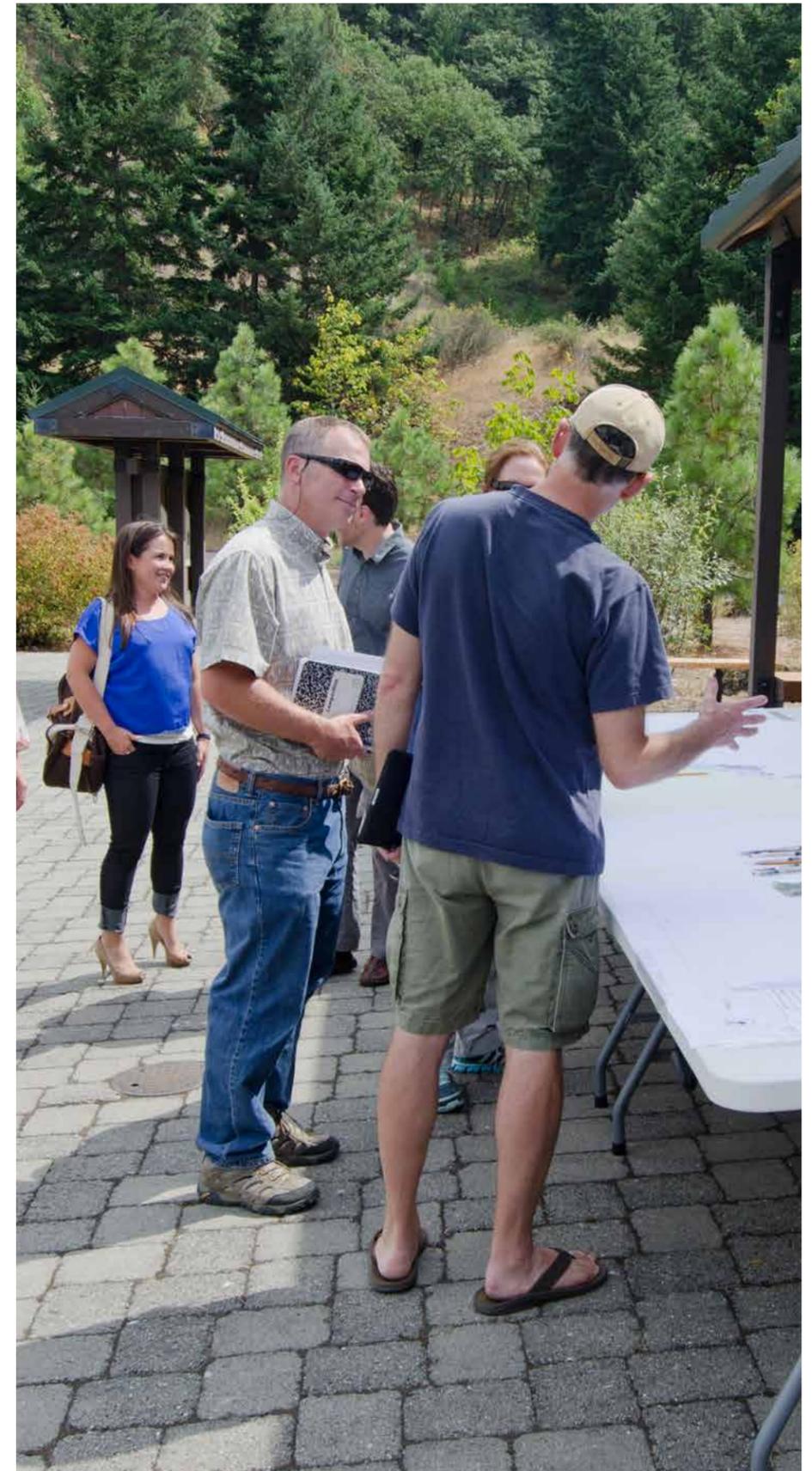
“Establish fees for use (Parking, trails, and road tolls).”

“More wayfinding and safety improvements.”

“Incorporate the opportunity for people to volunteer on trail improvement projects in parks. People could get a patch for volunteering from year-to-year.”

“I read often of smash and grab theft occurring at trailheads. Is there any plan to address the increased crime that inevitably follows increased usage of the gorge by hikers?”

OPRD Response: We have identified car clout as one of the highest priority safety issues in the Gorge and it is a major factor as we consider trailhead improvements across the Gorge. While we understand that it is not the only answer to the problem, refraining from leaving valuables in your vehicle when visiting any of our parks is highly recommended to reduce opportunities for theft.



Members of the public ‘put their mark on the map’ at the first round of public meetings.

Public Comment: Regional Themes and Concepts Discussion Summary

Recreation in the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area is a unique network, where individual recreation sites typically act as stops among a greater outdoor experience, OPRD recognizes that state parks are one part of an integrated, regional visitor experience. During the public planning process we heard many ideas that are outside the scope of state parks planning capacity but that are significant regional planning themes in need of attention in this well-loved region.

OPRD sees great value in many of these concepts, however they require strong partnership and coordination efforts for implementation, many of which are better led by other stakeholders and regional leadership organizations. Continuing to discuss, explore and act on these themes will help to better meet the needs of the Gorge communities and visitors we heard from, while also reducing overall costs and duplicative efforts across multiple stakeholders and organizations. OPRD has collected these ideas here on behalf of the Gorge community to help inform future region wide planning efforts. It is important to note that these region wide themes and concepts have influenced the direction of this plan, however the actions identified in the coming chapters focus on state park properties. There is a need for a larger regional planning effort to prioritize and implement the many planning themes and concepts that exists for the national scenic area. This plan does recognize the importance of OPRD's continued participation in those future region wide planning efforts.

Theme 1: Connectivity

During the public process the planning team identified 'connectivity' or 'community' as a primary planning value. We sought a framework to describe and develop how state parks contribute to the larger Gorge community, made up of urban areas, other recreation facilities, private and public landowners and several agencies and organizations. In public meetings we asked how we could support connectivity across the Gorge in our parks and we heard people provide ideas about how larger regional connectivity could be improved.

This theme encompasses physical connections, i.e. trails and roads, however improvements to physical connections cultivate relationships between physical areas in the Gorge. One comment we heard in the process that exemplifies this value came from a long-time Hood River resident: 'The development of the Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail between Mosier and Hood River not only connected the two cities, but made them think about each other in new ways. Prior to development of the trail these two communities hardly thought about each other at all.'

Connectivity Concepts

1. Collaborate with stakeholders to provide a cohesive, accessible, and multi-modal recreation experience between all recreation areas in the Gorge.
2. Support efforts to retain and increase access to recreation areas in the Gorge.
 - Attract and engage partnerships with stakeholders in the Gorge to provide additional opportunities in the Gorge for river access and overnight camping.
 - Retain and engage partnerships with recreation-based groups to maintain facilities in accordance with park management and the protection of natural resources.
 - Extend and connect existing trails throughout the Gorge to create a cohesive, legible network to all Gorge visitors, as well as reduce strain off primary trailheads and trails.
 - Complete gaps in Gorge Trail 400 within state parks and partner to complete trails outside our parks.
3. Increase access to parks through Gorge-wide coordinated wayfinding tools.
 - Support development of Lewis and Clark and Mayer as gateway parks in coordination with Gorge-wide wayfinding efforts.
 - Retain and enhance partnerships with communities in the Gorge as gateways to provide recreation information to visitors to the Gorge.



OPRD and ODOT staff meet to discuss plans for the Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail

- Support development of signage when appropriate in accordance with the National Scenic Area (NSA) and Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail Wayfinding Signage Plan (ODOT, 2013) to provide legible wayfinding for all Gorge visitors.
 - o Support development of highway signs describing important features (i.e. Rooster Rock, Crown Point) to inform motorists of their location.
 - o Support development of wayfinding tools to orient visitors to parks that can only be accessed from one direction of Interstate 84.
- Support development of wayfinding tools that help people visiting without prior knowledge of the Gorge know where to go and how to get to recreation destinations.
- Link to websites at parks and on the web to local resources that provide quality information on recreation and historical interpretive elements (i.e. NW Hikers, Travel Oregon, Ride Oregon Ride, NW Trail Alliance, Wyeast, etc.).

- Partner with Friends of the Gorge on their app that defines amenities within a certain radius.
 - Partner with the USFS on their Online Recreation Map Application.
4. Increase trail connections and park land holdings to increase connectivity.
- The Gorge Recreation Coalition submitted a letter to OPRD during the planning process to identify regional connectivity projects including some identified in the 1994 state parks plan and new proposals. These projects included:
 - A new state park at the Baumann property (owned by the Columbia Gorge Environmental Foundation) (New)
 - Lewis and Clark to Portland Women’s Forum (1994 plan)
 - Portland Women’s Forum to Latourell Falls (1994 plan)
 - Latourell Loop Trail Enhancement (New)
 - Bridal Veil Falls ADA Trail (1994 plan)
 - Bridal Veil Upper Falls Trail (New)
 - Trail 400 Gap – Ainsworth to John B. Yeon (New)
 - John B. Yeon State Scenic Corridor to Lang State Park (New)
 - Wyeth State Park (1994 Plan)
 - Viento State Park Trails (New)
 - HCRH State Trail to Post Canyon Trail system (New):
 - Mosier to Memaloose Overlook (New)
 - Memaloose to Rowena Dell (1994 Plan)
 - Rowena Overlook to Tooley Lake (1994 Plan)



Roadside Parking along Palmer Road at Lewis & Clark State Park

Theme II. Transportation and Congestion

Regional Transportation Concepts

1. Partner with other Gorge stakeholders and organizations on a Gorge-wide alternative transportation study, including potential for ferries and shuttles using National Park Service models.
 - Support development of shuttle to operate on regular interval schedule and make stops in some state parks.
 - Study options for rail service in the Gorge.
 - Develop ‘Ranger on the Train’ program for passenger rail in Washington
 - Partner with ODOT to consider developing a safer bike route from Gresham Max Train Station to Dabney State Park and the rest of the Historic Highway.
2. Promote carpooling, rideshare and public transportation options for accessing Gorge parks.
 - Support development of electric car charging stations at parks and reserved parking spaces for using green energy vehicles or a carpool.
 - Explore providing discount day use fees and overnight for arriving via car share or public transportation.

Theme III. Partnerships

Gorge-wide Partnership Concepts

1. Continue to engage in interagency communication to effectively manage shared lands and better establish cohesive visitor experiences in the Gorge.
 - Retain and enhance partnership with the Columbia River Gorge Commission on protection of the NSA, sign development, and the future vision for the Columbia River Gorge.
 - Retain and enhance partnership with the U.S. Forest Service on interagency trail management, boundary agreements and shared facility maintenance.
 - Retain and enhance partnership with ODOT on management of the Historic Columbia Highway Trail, roadways, transportation, inclement weather plans, and signage.
 - Retain and enhance partnership with the Army Corp of Engineers on education, training, tourism, and brochures.
 - Retain and enhance partnership with Washington State Parks on interagency problem solving, and collaboration on Gorge-wide recreation projects.
 - Retain and enhance partnership with the Bonneville Power Administration on recreation access.
 - Retain and enhance partnership with the Historic Columbia River Highway Advisory Committee on signage and HCRHST planning.
 - Retain and enhance partnership with the Union Pacific Railroad to maintain safe crossings and shared boundaries.
 - Work with the CWMA to identify and respond to high threat invasive species.
 - Work with conservation organizations on high priority habitat restoration projects.
2. Retain and consider partnerships with local organizations to enhance opportunities for public events in state parks.
 - Retain and enhance partnerships with educational institutions like OMSI and Rose City Astronomers, to host and develop unique outdoor education experiences like Star Parties.

- Retain and enhance partnerships with local cities, organizations, and the HCRHST to host recreation-based events.
 - Retain and enhance partnerships with the Washington and Oregon Historic Car Clubs to host events at Rooster Rock, celebrating the touring history of the Gorge.
3. Recognizing the synchronized energy between local economic health and recreation activities in the Gorge, we should retain and enhance partnerships that promote economic development opportunities for cities and communities with the Gorge.
- Increase overnight opportunities within our state parks supporting tourism to the region.
 - Continue to partner our parks with communities in the Gorge to establish recreation based economies within cities.
 - Support development of additional community partnerships to activate shared goals, including concessions, tourism and recreation programs.

Additional public comments regarding Gorge-Wide Planning:

“Transportation must be an essential consideration in planning for how parks users will get to and from the Gorge in the future. As generational shifts increase the share of people who choose to get around by bicycle and using transit rather than driving, the Gorge must change accordingly. New bicycle routes must be developed, including a river-level trail from Troutdale to Latourell, and a complete bicycle pathway system that continues to Hood River, allowing bicyclists and pedestrians to access parks in the Gorge that are currently inaccessible to all users. Additionally, transit access should be provided to the Gorge. Passenger rail with stops in Cascade Locks and Hood River should be provided to facilitate this, including trips on the weekends to serve visitor traffic.”

Wyeast blog posted a series of trail proposals addressed to the state park planning process. They can be read in full here: <http://wyeastblog.org/tag/gorge-parks-plan/>.

“There are definitely many opportunities to explore bicycling strategies in the Gorge that can be a win for resource management, parking pressures, and economic opportunity.”

“There needs to be more trails built in the Gorge to take the pressure off the popular ones. Connecting trails that would make a 5-6 mile loop (similar to the Multnomah-Wahkeena loop) out of existing one-way trails would be especially helpful to hikers, especially those of us who aren’t up to really long hikes. A number of these could be built in the mid-Gorge, using Trail 400 for the bottom end of the loop. A really easy connector would be to connect the Horsetail Falls and Oneonta trails with a trail parallel to the Scenic Highway, so that those of us hiking the Horsetail/Oneonta loop don’t have to walk the road back to our cars, an unpleasant and scary finish to what is otherwise a spectacular loop hike.”

“I’m impressed with many of the new improvements in the Gorge parks. However, I’m baffled at the lack of signage directing hikers and sightseers to the trails. Also at all trail starting points, forks, and questionable direction points. Signs should include: name of trail, trail number, a direction arrow (when necessary), and/or name of trail destination, and number of miles to the tenths of a decimal place. This is a problem with both state parks and FS land in the Gorge. Please consider a plan to improve all trail signs in the near future.”

“Parks plan should include more soft-surface biking trail opportunities in the Parks in the Gorge to respond to the strong demand in the Gorge and close proximity to a large user-base that could reach them via the major state investment in the Historic Highway.”



6

Regional Needs, Constraints & Opportunities

Needs, opportunities and constraints within Gorge State Parks were identified from a range of inputs, including: existing conditions assessments, public comments, park visitor surveys, field staff reports, and site visits. This chapter provides a generalized discussion of challenges and opportunities for recreation in the Gorge, as well as a list of park-specific needs. Strategies to address these needs are identified in *Chapter 7: Values, Goals, and Strategies*, and implementation of these strategies is outlined in *Chapter 8: Visitor Experience Plans and Recommendations*.

1994 OPRD Gorge Management Plan & 2014 Identified Needs

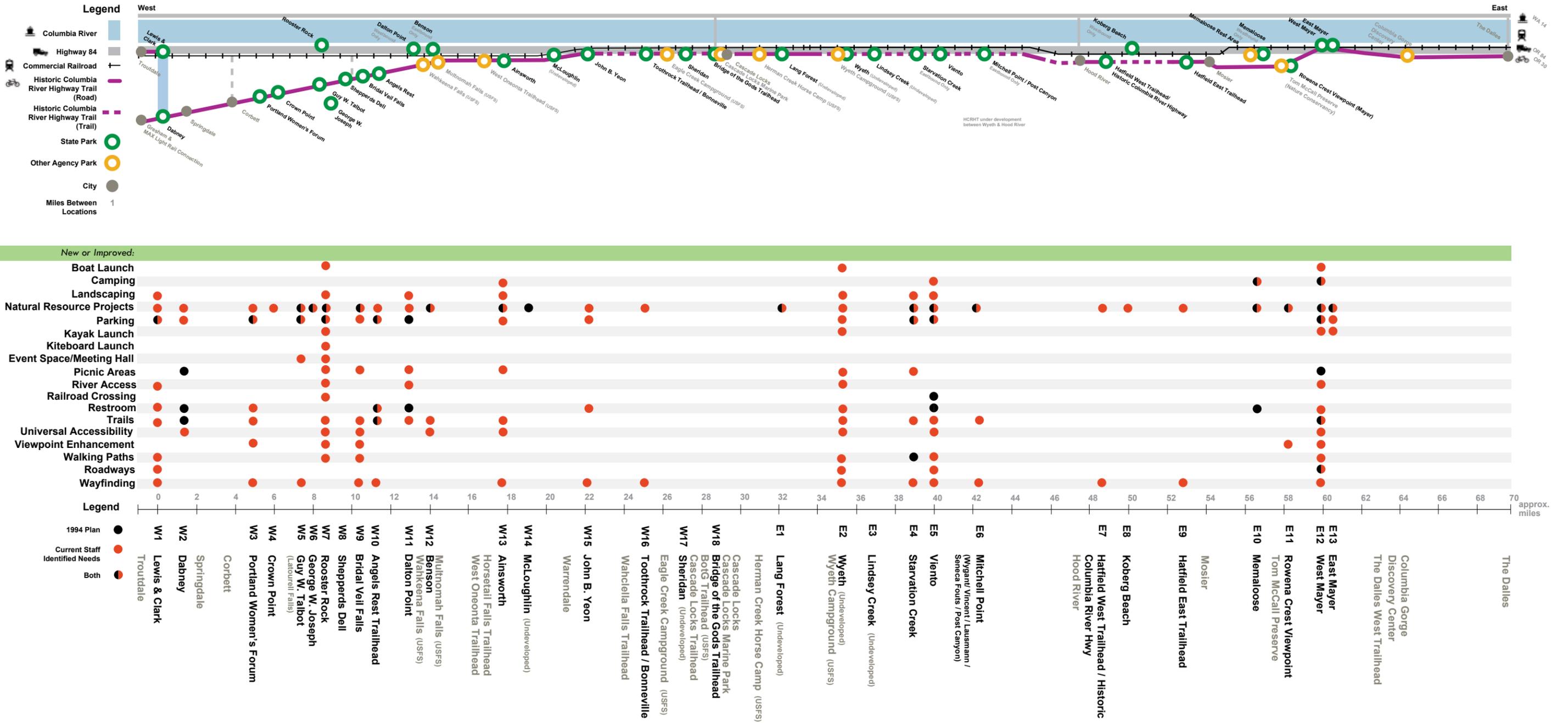


Figure 6.1: 1994 OPRD Gorge Management Plan & 2014 Identified Needs

Regional Facilities

Cumulative Effects

Challenges

Inherent in the development of outdoor recreation is the consistent balance in weighing visitor experience with natural resource impacts. The Gorge Management Plan currently requires consideration of cumulative effects of proposed developments when determining the potential scenic, cultural, recreational, and natural resource impacts of development.

Opportunities

OPRD's ability to address development impacts and forecast future conditions across an area as large and diverse as the Gorge is limited. Nonetheless, this planning process recognizes the value of the cumulative effects analysis and planning staff have developed strategies to analyze the effects of development projects proposed in the plan in several ways:

- 1) The plan analyzes conditions including existing recreation practices, facilities, cultural and natural resources across the Gorge, to gain a clear understanding of where new development and restoration is most needed. Projects in this plan have been proposed based on this analysis (See Chapter 1: How to Use This Plan).
- 2) Based on a Gorgewide natural resource assessment, including botanical, forestry and wildlife conditions (See Chapter 3 and appendices), resource values were ranked on a 1-4 scale. Development was prioritized and designed within existing development footprints and where resource value is low.
- 3) Natural resource projects that complement development have been identified and prioritized to produce a neutral effect. Most development projects identify invasive species protection and the establishment of native plant communities prior to construction. (See Chapter 8)
- 4) Natural Resource projects that enhance the habitat and botanical diversity have been identified in non-developed areas, while management of existing non-developed areas will contin-



Parking on a summer day at Lewis and Clark

ue to be managed for the encroachment of invasive and undesired species. (See Chapter 8)

- 5) In addition to existing State Natural Area Reserves, this plan proposes botanical reserve and wildlife refuge areas. These areas are intended to protect rare or high quality ecosystems by limiting development impacts. (See Chapter 8 and 9)

Parking

Challenges

Parking for recreation facilities in the Gorge is limited at OPRD recreation facilities, especially in the western 'walls to falls' area along the HCRH, and during peak season usage (spring-summer) as weather gets warmer.

Limited parking results in illegal shoulder parking along Highway 30, creating a strain on local residents, emergency services, law enforcement, park staff, visitor experience, and natural resources. While adding parking spaces temporary alleviates congestion, this solution is costly and temporary in the face of projected population increases.

Opportunities

OPRD will continue to identify strategies for reducing the strain on congestion, including prioritizing development opportunities for additional river access in the Gorge, using meadows as temporary overflow parking during peak usage (which has been effective at Dabney State Park).

ODOT has recently published a preliminary congestion assessment, *Historic Columbia River Gorge Highway Tourism-Related Congestion Mitigation Study* (2014), that identifies strategies for alleviating congestion in this corridor. OPRD will continue to partner with USFS, ODOT, CRG National Scenic Area, USACOE, local counties, ports, and sheriff's departments on finding solutions to parking problems. These solutions could include increasing parking enforcement efforts and fees, Gorge-wide day use fees, shuttle services, and signage. Long-term solutions need to be planned as part of a Gorge-wide effort as they require multiple agency cooperation to carry them out.

Restrooms

Challenges

Restroom facilities are limited at Gorge recreation facilities, especially at trailheads. This results in use of private property or trails as makeshift restroom facilities, creating health hazards. The cost of developing additional restroom facilities is expensive and maintenance puts a strain on limited park staff. In some cases there is limited room to develop restroom facilities in a safe or visually subordinate manner, adhering to the National Scenic Area Act.

Opportunities

Restroom facilities will be planned appropriately where practical and signage at recreation facilities without feasible restrooms should indicate nearby locations where restrooms are available. Restrooms should be located with universal accessibility, parking, and within reasonable distances throughout the Gorge.

River Access

Challenges

Access to the Columbia and Sandy Rivers for swimming, bank fishing, boating, windsports, and waterfowl hunting is limited because the few recreation areas located on these rivers also require safe and legal access across Highway 84 and the Union Pacific Railroad. Limited water access contributes to parking congestion at parks where rivers are present (especially Dabney and Lewis and Clark) as they become overcrowded on hot days. This has historically been a challenge for recreation facilities in the Portland metro area. Rooster Rock and Milo McIver State Parks were planned in the 1950's and 1960's to alleviate overcrowding at the Sandy River, however the problem persists decades later. There is a need for additional park staff at parks with river access during the summer.

Additionally, some park properties contain river access points that have been used by locals for decades, requiring illegally crossing the railroad and/or parking on highway shoulders. With recent near-miss incidents and increased railroad traffic the situation is extremely difficult for park staff to manage with potentially fatal consequences. New at grade railroad crossings are no longer legal to construct in the United States and above grade or underground crossings are extremely expensive due to the cost of shutting down the railroad during construction. Additionally, there must be enough land available on either side of the railroad to create a universally accessible crossing.

Opportunities

OPRD has identified additional or underutilized areas in this plan that currently have safe access to the river (Rooster Rock, Wyeth, Viento, and West Mayer) and prioritizing these projects can create new opportunities for visitors to access the water throughout the Gorge, for a variety of recreation activities. Coordinating complementary recreation activities at dedicated locations in parks or at certain parks can help choreograph a quality recreational experience.



Union Pacific Railroad and I-84 restricting public access to the Columbia River

Given the importance of river access to visitors, and the desire for additional safe railroad crossings, OPRD will complete a feasibility study to understand which of the areas identified by the public are potentially constructable given landscape slope and limitations on either side of the tracks. Natural resource health and recreation benefits will be considered as well.

Safety

Challenges

Some parking areas in the Gorge are subject to break-ins and theft of valuables, as they are located within close vicinity to the highway and are not monitored consistently. Reduced funding makes it difficult for park staff to monitor parking lots frequently. As a result, visitors feel unsafe parking their vehicles while using state parks in the Gorge.

Opportunities

The U.S. Forest Service and State Parks have partnered with Multnomah County Sheriff's department to create a volunteer citizen patrol group that monitors parking lots in the western Gorge. This program should be increased and replicated throughout the Gorge. Additionally, this plan has identified the opportunity to create a volunteer 'trail docent' position that will place people at trailheads throughout the Gorge to provide information, interpretive history, and directions, as well as 'eyes on the ground' to deter and report theft at state parks.

Trails

Challenges

Existing trails (hiking, walking, running, equestrian, and bicycle) in the Gorge are crowded in peak seasons, especially in the 'walls and falls' area along the HCRH. This affects visitor experience while impacting trails and natural resources adjacent to trails when people pass each other. Limited maintenance funding for trails and shared responsibilities by multiple agencies across land boundaries complicates efforts to plan and repair existing trails. As well, the extreme weather conditions in the Gorge can impact the condition of trails, with washouts a frequent occurrence or natural erosion from a lack of periodic maintenance.

Limiting trail use by maintaining a restricted number of parking spaces has not been an entirely effective solution to controlling the number of visitors as people park vehicles illegally on the shoulders of roadways, creating parking congestion. This strategy needs to be considered with others to improve the overall visitor experience throughout the Gorge.

Opportunities

Opening additional trails can help alleviate the strain on existing trail options. Connecting existing trails to underutilized or additional parking areas and promoting lesser-known trails can help disperse use, as opposed to concentrating visitors at popular trailheads. Modifying single 'out & back' trails into loop trails can decrease impacts on trails, natural resources,

and visitor occurrences. Communication with the U.S. Forest Service, Land Conservancy, ODOT and other agencies should be continued to preserve coordinated efforts in planning and maintaining trails.

Outreach and education about the effects of visitors on natural resources and volunteer work parties should continue to be encouraged, as volunteer groups do significant trail work each season.

Clear and frequent communication between ODOT, OPRD, USFS, and the CRGNSA during the planning and development of the HCRH State Trail has resulted in an exemplary, multi-modal trail system. The development process has been considerate to user experience, long-term maintenance, historical features, natural areas, material and scenic qualities. Similar efforts should be employed in future regional planning efforts throughout the Gorge, as well as other trail construction projects with multiple land owners.



Existing Boat Ramp at Rooster Rock

Universal Access

Challenges

Several state park properties were developed prior to ADA guidelines and are therefore not accessible to every park visitor. While parks that have accessible facilities are identified on the OPRD website and brochures, there remain many inaccessible facilities in state parks in Gorge, due to steep topography, aging facilities, and limited funding to make upgrades.

Opportunities

One of the goals of the planning process was to improve universal accessibility in Gorge parks. While there are limitations to achieving this goal (for example, in areas with steep trails), a number of projects were identified as having the potential to increase access for people with disabilities. Staff should prioritize projects that improve or create additional opportunities for all visitors to experience the natural and historic features unique to the Columbia River Gorge.

Wayfinding

Challenges

Despite the fact that the Gorge is a linear valley, navigating it in a car or as a pedestrian can be unexpectedly confusing, given the frequency of one way road on-ramps and exits, dead-end roads, and lack of railroad or highway crossings. Adding to the complexity is a lack of cohesive Gorge-wide signage and maps leaving visitors with no prior knowledge unable to find their way.

Opportunities

ODOT led a recent effort to produce the *HCRH State Trail Wayfinding Signage Plan (2013)*. This plan includes input from multiple agencies including OPRD, and creates a unified vision for signage along Highway 30. Similar multi-agency efforts should be made to create consistent signage for roadways, the Gorge Trail 400, and other trails throughout the Gorge. Maps at popular stops for people who may not have planned their trip ahead of time should include directions to recreation facilities based on activities and skill levels, as well as suggested

alternative locations for peak seasons.

Several organizations, including Travel Oregon, Friends of the Gorge, and other recreation advocacy groups, have produced online resources to help visitors navigate the Gorge. These resources should continue to be developed to include interpretive and cultural information, while utilizing contemporary navigation features for people who arrive without having planned their trip in advance.

Individual State Park Needs and Challenges

State park properties are listed in geographical order from west to east.

W1 Lewis and Clark State Recreation Site

Lewis and Clark State Recreation Site was the subject of a 2011 Comprehensive Plan and park needs identified in that plan have been updated to reflect construction projects and changes to recreation in the park since the plan's completion.

1. The park and adjacent ODOT lands have areas of disturbed vegetation due to road maintenance, past construction staging, and illegal parking.
2. There is a need for additional parking.
3. The capacity for parking spaces at the park is limited based on the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Management Plan (NSAMP) recreation intensity class.
4. Illegal parking on the shoulders of the roadways is difficult to enforce. This is a strain on parking enforcement, park neighbors, and park staff on warm days when visitors crowd the river. It potentially creates a hazard for emergency crews.
5. Trails should feature more loop options highlighting interpretive features as opposed to current 'out and back' trails.
6. Pedestrian access could be improved due to a lack of designated crossings and trails on Jordan Road. This is a safety issue and impacts natural resources.
7. Access to the river is currently undefined, resulting in damage to riparian areas, conflicts with traffic and confusion about where visitors should go.
8. There is a lack of orientation signage on the interchange and along Jordan Road, resulting in confusion for new visitors.
9. Traffic along the interchange and Jordan Road is often travelling at unsafe speeds given the high level of pedestrian traffic in the area.
10. Some riparian areas and disturbed natural areas need to be maintained for ecological and aesthetic purposes.



View of the Sandy River from the beach at Lewis and Clark

11. The existing day use site at the park is not providing the quality of visitor experience that would be expected at a "gateway" to the Gorge, Sandy River and the Historic Columbia River Highway (HCRH).
12. The new freeway bridge bike-pedestrian crossing will bring more visitors to the park and will connect cyclists to Jordan Road and the HCRH.

Additional Needs & Challenges Identified during the current planning process:

13. There is a need to connect the park to the proposed 40-Mile Loop Trail.
14. Overcrowding on hot days creates a strain on park staff with cleanup of facilities and garbage collection.

W2 Dabney State Recreation Area

1. The park does not currently have any universally accessible facilities; however the park contains a comparably level grade along the riverbank. This makes it potentially one of the most accessible beaches in the management unit.
2. Illegal parking on the shoulders of the HCRH is a strain on law enforcement, neighbors, and park staff on warm days when visitors crowd the river. This potentially creates a hazard for emergency crews.
3. The disc golf course is designed in a manner that disturbs riparian areas and natural resources as users impact these areas when retrieving stray discs.

W3 Portland Women's Forum State Scenic Viewpoint

1. The parking lot is often full during peak seasons, and support facilities are necessary to improve visitor experience.
2. It is the first viewpoint on the HCRH traveling eastbound from Portland.
3. An existing road connects Portland Women's Forum to Rooster Rock and potentially Crown Point.
4. Bicyclists utilize the viewpoint as a park and ride.
5. Historical attributes of viewpoint and pastoral qualities of adjacent agricultural field should remain.
6. Vegetation needs to be managed to restore the viewpoint and allow drivers to see the park, as visitors sometimes miss the entrance and turnaround in neighbor's driveways.

W4 Crown Point State Scenic Corridor

No needs are identified at this time.

W5 Guy Talbot State Park

1. The carriage house at lower Talbot is in need of restoration and could potentially be repurposed as an event space or interpretive exhibit based on historical Latourell town.
2. The trail system connecting lower Latourell Falls to upper falls is in need of major safety improvements, viewshed enhancements, and bridge replacements.



Rooster Rock's historic beach as seen from Crown Point (c.1920)

W6 George W. Joseph State Natural Area
No needs are identified at this time.

W7 Rooster Rock State Park

1. Park visitation rates fluctuate dramatically: weekend use in peak season is very high but weekday use and shoulder season use are low.
2. Paved areas are expansive; however, all parking spaces are needed on peak weekends and especially in locations near all reserveable picnic areas.
3. The main beach is no longer functional as a swimming area. We do not know what its future holds. The swimming beach on the east end of the park is designated as a clothing optional beach limiting use for most visitors, and affecting the park's image to families.
4. The boat ramp is not always functional in its current state due to silting in the channel and is extremely expensive to fix or regularly dredge. It is on the Oregon State Marine Board's 6 year plan to repair. There is a need for increased understanding of sedimentation patterns.
5. The riverfront area of the park is very narrow along the extent of the parking area and does not provide a pleasant walking experience or universally accessible water access.
6. There is not a "heart," or centralized area, to the park. The entry experience is one of entering a parking lot next to a river and not a state park.
7. There is a need for universally accessible picnic areas and a universally accessible beach access and/or river experience.
8. Visitor surveys show the park does not draw young families, shoulder season hikers, school groups, or visitors from the views and falls loop on the HCRH.
9. Visitor surveys reflect a desire for children friendly play areas, dog off-leash areas, more docks, more picnic shelter facilities, and more restroom facilities.
10. Bank fishers and rock-climbers park illegally on the shoulder of I-84, to access Rooster Rock and the channel more directly and avoid a day use fee.



Angel's Rest Trailhead

W8 Shepperd's Dell State Natural Area

1. Trail restoration is necessary to upgrade aging masonry, stairs and rails at the viewpoint.

W9 Bridal Veil Falls State Scenic Viewpoint

1. Increasing parking would help alleviate current overcrowding at the park, however additional parking is limited based on NSAMP recreation intensity class.
2. The current viewpoint loops are an opportunity to create a short, universally accessible loop with surface work and mild grading.
3. The current waterfall viewing area is in need of repair and can be re-envisioned within the context of the landscape.
4. The park is an ideal location along the HCRH to provide safe support facilities for bicyclists.
5. The historic Bridal Veil logging town site is adjacent to the park and could potentially provide a universal access route to the falls if developed in partnership with the USFS.

W10 Angel's Rest State Trailhead

1. The parking area for the trailhead is often overcrowded and cars fill the shoulder of the HCRH, impacting natural resources and creating safety issues as pedestrians walk along the road.
2. There is a need for a restroom at the trailhead, given the lack of facilities nearby.
3. Trail maintenance is challenging because of the high visitor impact.

W11 Dalton Point State Recreation Site

1. Crime needs to be reduced at this site. Currently, the park has a negative reputation because of vehicle break-ins.
2. Based on its location, the boat ramp could potentially be very popular, especially in the context of continued silting issues at Rooster Rock; however crime and the fact that it is only currently accessed from west-bound I-84 limit this opportunity.
3. The riverfront could potentially provide excellent swimming and bank fishing experiences; however crime and the fact that it is only currently accessed from west-bound I-84 limit this opportunity.

W12 Benson State Recreation Area

1. There is a need for continued study by partners to understand how Benson contributes to the overall ecological health and visitor experience of the general area which includes Multnomah Falls, Benson Lake, and Hartman Pond.

W13 Ainsworth State Park

1. Increasing day use parking at the Gorge 400 trailhead will provide additional opportunities to access the USFS network in the Gorge.
2. The day use area is outdated and needs some overall updates are needed to improve the aesthetics and layout of the area for increased visitor experience.
3. The current walk-in campsite is filled in summer months and needs to be increased in size, while retaining its natural character.

- The park is one of the only overnight parks directly adjacent to the HCRH and there is an opportunity to create additional day use support facilities to bicyclists as well as an overnight hiker/biker community campsite.
- Visitor surveys reflect a desire for facility improvements providing universal access and safety.

W14 McLoughlin State Natural Area (undeveloped)
No needs are identified at this time.

W15 John B. Yeon State Scenic Corridor

- Lower Tanner Creek has been identified as a high priority for restoration by the USFS, and OPRD will consider riparian restoration proposals from partner agencies on its properties in the area.
- The parking area for the John B. Yeon trailhead is small and often overcrowded and cars fill the shoulder of the HCRH, impacting natural resources and creating safety issues as pedestrians walk along the road.
- There is a need for a restroom at the trailhead, given the lack of facilities nearby.

W16 Toothrock State Trailhead/Bonneville State Scenic Corridor (undeveloped)

- A restroom is needed at Toothrock Trailhead, given the lack of nearby facilities.
- Toothrock Trailhead has a high rate of vehicle break-ins.
- The nearby Eagle Creek trailhead parking lot is typically full; however overflow parking does not seem to impact this trailhead.

W17 Sheridan State Scenic Corridor (undeveloped)
No needs are identified at this time.

W18 HCRHST: Bridge of the Gods State Trailhead
No needs are identified at this time.

E1 Lang Forest State Scenic Corridor (undeveloped)
No needs are identified at this time.



Boat Access to the Lagoon at Wyeth

E2 Wyeth State Recreation Area (undeveloped)

- With existing safe access across the railroad and highway, there are opportunities to develop river based recreation experiences.
- The HCRHST is planned to pass by the park, allowing the park to provide support facilities for the trail, i.e. a hiker/biker campsite, restroom, trailhead, and other facilities.
- There is an existing vehicle/pedestrian overpass across railroad and an underpass across 1-84 to the Columbia River.
- Wyeth is adjacent to Wyeth Fishing Site, an in-lieu fishing area and partnerships with Tribal groups need to be addressed for any proposed use at Wyeth State Recreation Area.
- The park is adjacent to Wyeth Campground (operated by USFS) that provides car parking, restrooms, and informal hiker/biker overflow camping, as well as trail access to the USFS trail network. It is closed in the winter.
- Currently there is a partnership plan (OPRD, ODOT, and USFS) to develop a trailhead for the HCRHST in a property adjacent to Wyeth Campground.

- There is a plan for the USFS to provide mountain bike and equestrian trails at nearby Wyeth Bench that will potentially connect to Cascade Locks.
- Currently the property is not officially open as a state park, even though OPRD owns the property.
- The current parking area should be maintained, but is in need of aesthetic improvements and ecological restoration.
- The lagoon currently hosts waterfowl hunting. Off-channel aquatic and riparian restoration can benefit fish passage.

E3 Lindsey Creek State Scenic Corridor (undeveloped)
No needs are identified at this time.

E4 Starvation Creek State Park

- Improvements to the trailhead are necessary to support the HCRHST, including directional signage, bike parking, and seating.
- The current parking lot can be refigured for safer, more fluid traffic flow, and potentially additional parking spaces.
- The park sign should be relocated to be visible from I-84.

E5 Viento State Park

- The day use area can be organized more effectively to increase uses, universal access amenities, and visitor experience.
- The roadway providing day use river access creates user conflict with visitors traveling through the campsite and needs to be rerouted.
- The HCRHST is planned to pass through the park, also connecting Viento to Starvation Creek, the Gorge 400 Trail, and the USFS trail network. This is an opportunity to enhance the current trailhead to support bicyclists and hikers, as well as establish a dedicated hiker/biker campsite.
- Screening and reconfiguration of the current maintenance area, parking, and road near the walk-in sites is necessary with development of the HCRHST.
- The park, while directly situated between a train line and Highway 30 can be extremely noisy.

6. Viento is a great place for kiteboarding compared to other state park properties in the Gorge and this use should be encouraged, however recreation amenities should not degrade natural resources.
7. Existing roads in the park could provide new family trail opportunities to highlighting Viento Bluffs through partnerships with BPA.
8. There are opportunities to expand universal access facilities, including a universal access loop trail with interpretive features highlighting the old railroad line.

E6 Mitchell Point: Wygant State Natural Area/Vinzenz Lausman State Natural Area / Seneca Fouts Natural Area (including Post Canyon)

1. Alterations to the Mitchell Point viewpoint area may be necessary when the HCRHST is developed around the point.
2. Several trails in the Post Canyon Area that are on Oregon State Parks property are in need of maintenance. OPRD has partnered and contributed to the Lower Post Canyon Trails Project to seek solutions to these maintenance issues. Future trail planning in the area should focus on developing or refining high quality trails and encouraging less density.
3. Eastern Gorge residents have expressed the need for a dog park in the area and there are opportunities near the entrance to Post Canyon for developing one.

E7 Hatfield West State Trailhead/HCRH State Trail

1. This location has been identified as needing a HCRHST Information Station in accordance with ODOT's 2013 *HCRHST Wayfinding Plan*.

E8 Koberg Beach State Recreation Site
No needs are identified at this time.

E9 Hatfield East State Trailhead/HCRHST

1. This location has been identified as needing a HCRHST Information Station in accordance with ODOT's 2013 *HCRHST Wayfinding Plan*.

E10 Memaloose State Park

1. There is a need to provide additional camping spaces with full hookups.
2. Aging red maples populate the campsite. The tree species is non-native and aggressively seeds across the campsite resulting in additional vegetative management.
3. There is an established history of river access at the park; however this requires crossing the railroad which creates an unsafe situation. There is limited space for a required above grade crossing to safely establish river access at the park.

E11 Rowena Crest State Viewpoint

1. There is no restroom close to the trailhead or viewpoint.
2. The old quarry property below Rowena Crest has potential as a support facility to the HCRHST. Restoration efforts should be continued there.

E12 West Mayer State Park

1. The boat ramp is in need of repair.
2. The park is overcrowded on warm sunny days, with people seeking access to the river for swimming, boating and bank fishing.
3. The western portion of the park is currently inaccessible to vehicles and is subject to some vagrant behavior in off seasons.



Wildflowers in bloom next to the boat ramp at West Mayer

4. Given the park's proximity to the HCRHST and existing utilities the park has an opportunity to provide amenities to trail users, including a hiker/biker campsite.
5. There are opportunities to develop short, universal access trails and a universal access fishing pier in the pond.

E13 East Mayer State Park

1. The Squally Point area is popular with local residents however there is no legal access to the area without crossing the Union Pacific railroad tracks. Additionally the area contains sensitive natural resources and state law requires OPRD to protect them from damage.
2. Windsports are popular with visitors; however off-trail use, anchors, and gravel used to cover rocks are potentially impacting endangered natural resources. Best management practices need to be assessed and implemented in coordination with user groups.

Oregon State Parks: Parkwide Needs

The following general needs were identified in visitor surveys, public meetings, and the comprehensive planning process. These needs were compared to the *1994 OPRD Columbia Gorge Management Unit Master Plan* to determine if unrealized projects from that plan were still necessary and relevant. Descriptions of individual park needs are presented in this chapter and general strategies for meetings these needs and challenges across all state parks in the Gorge can be found in the following chapter, *Values, Goals, and Strategies*. Specific implementation of these strategies for each park can be found in *Chapter 8: Visitor Experience Plans and Recommendations*. See Figure 6.1 for a chart outlining this information.

Day Use Facility Needs

- Additional Bicycling Amenities
- Additional Landscaping for Aesthetics and Screening
- Additional Meeting Spaces
- Additional Mountain Biking Trails
- Additional Off-Leash Dog Areas
- Additional Parking
- Additional Restrooms
- Additional Trail Connections
- Additional Trail Options
- Additional Windsport Launches
- Improved Boat Ramps and Launches
- Improved Lighting in Overnight Areas
- Improved Mooring Facilities
- Improved Roadways
- Improved Safety
- Improved Wayfinding
- Increased Picnic Areas
- Increased Short Loop Trails
- Increased Universal Access Facilities
- New State Park Properties

Overnight Facility Needs

- Increased Bicycle Camping Facilities
- Increased Camping Facilities Away from Road and Railroad Noise
- Increased Opportunities for Walk-In and Naturalized Overnight Facilities
- Increased Overnight Facilities

Activities Needs

- Historical Resource Protection and Education Programs
- Increased Access to Wetland and Natural Areas
- Increased Cultural and Historical Interpretive Programs
- Increased Natural Resource Identification Programs
- Increased Outdoor Education Programs
- Increased Recreation Training Programs
- Increased River Access
- Increased Volunteer Opportunities

Natural Resource Needs

- Additional Native Restoration
- Improved Habitat Quality
- Improved Water Quality
- Increased Fire Safety
- Increased Native Plantings in Landscaped Recreation Areas
- Removal of Invasive Species
- Viewpoint Restoration



7

Values, Goals and Strategies

The values, goals and strategies outlined in this chapter are a bridge between ideas generated during the public involvement process and future implementation of park management actions. They reflect the values-based planning approach described in *Chapter 5: Public Involvement*, and respond directly to the needs, opportunities, and constraints identified in *Chapter 6: Needs Constraints, and Opportunities*. Subsequent chapters will provide a detailed approach to implementing these values, goals, and strategies in order to realize the community's vision.



Rowena Viewpoint

Value 1 - Scenic Beauty

We value the aesthetic grandeur of the Columbia River Gorge as a source of inspiration.

Goal 1.1: Provide a visitor experience at Oregon State Parks in the Gorge that contributes to Columbia River Gorge Scenic Area.

Scenic Strategies

- 1.1a Provide access to areas that exemplify the scenic beauty within the Columbia River Gorge.
- 1.1b Celebrate the context and scenic beauty of the Gorge through improvements to the layout and design of state parks day use and overnight activity areas.
- 1.1c Manage state parks as an enhancement to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area (NSA) supporting landscape settings identified in the National Scenic Area Management Plan (NSAMP).
- 1.1d Preserve natural areas that are characteristic of the Gorge, are part of significant scenic views, and/or contribute to the park landscape experience.
- 1.1e Follow NSAMP guidelines for placement of new facilities within identified viewing areas.
- 1.1f Preserve viewsheds within state parks to highlight the NSA.
- 1.1g Contribute to future planning efforts for NSAMP with partner landholding stakeholders on a regular basis including future updates to the NSAMP.



Visitors to Vista House at Crown Point

Value 2 - Heritage

We value the current and future generations of people who were drawn to the Gorge, their stories and cultures that have shaped the land we know today.

Goal 2.1: Implement measures for interpreting historic and culturally significant features within state parks while taking appropriate steps to preserve their historic integrity.

Interpretive Strategies

- 2.1a Relate historical stories in varied ways that capture diverse audiences (i.e. through programs, music, poetry, interactive activities, scientific exploration, school groups, modern technology, volunteer programs, signage, etc.).
- 2.1b Develop interpretive programs, elements and activities as a series of experiences that capture the multiple narratives of movement throughout the Gorge. Help visitors understand the narratives are part of a larger story of people and generations experiencing the Gorge (i.e. Missoula Floods, geology, salmon spawning and trade migration, Lewis and Clark, European settlement, industrial history, and the HCRH).
- 2.1c Develop unique interpretive programs, elements and activities to capture the following resources present in the Gorge and state parks (adapted from the CRGNSA Draft Interpretive Strategy, 1990).
 - o Cultural
 - Enhance the understanding, experiences, enjoyment and appreciation of the prehistory, history, and modern history of all of the cultures of the Gorge.
 - o Geology, Geography, Hydrology
 - Enhance understanding of the geologic evolution of the Gorge and how this has affected other resources in the Gorge.
 - o Land Stewardship
 - Increase awareness and understanding of how and why the CRGNSA was established, the purposes of the National Scenic Act, and the values expressed in the Act.

- Increase awareness of management enhancement programs and stimulate participation in protection and restoration efforts.
- Enhance understanding of resource stewardship concepts, and explain how and why these concepts are being carried out in management of the NSA.
- Involve the visitor in the issues and management of the NSA.
- o National Scenic Area
 - Create awareness of where the most scenic spots are, why they are special, and how they were created.
 - Enhance awareness of the diversity and drama of views throughout the Gorge in a variety of locations, seasons and times of day.
- o Vegetation
 - Increase knowledge and awareness of the vegetation diversity of the Gorge and its relationship with climate and geology.
 - Increase awareness of the management programs to protect and restore native plant communities.
- o Weather & Climate
 - Create awareness of weather patterns in the Gorge; increase understanding of why and how the Gorge weather is unique.
 - Enhance understanding of the interrelationships between weather/climate and other activities in the Gorge.
- o Wildlife
 - Increase knowledge and awareness of Gorge wildlife, habitats, and their relationships.
- 2.1d Empower state park staff (as well as volunteers, friends groups and other partners) to create compelling educational programs.
 - o Provide access to relevant resources.
 - o Promote partnerships with valued stakeholders.



Fishing at Benson Lake

Goal 2.2: Follow protocols for investigating potential archeological sites and Historic Register buildings, preserving the integrity of significant sites prior to and during ground disturbing activities within the framework of OPRD's Cultural Resources Policy.

Goal 2.3: Continue to work with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, the Nez Perce Tribe, Confederated Tribes of Siletz, Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, and Yakama Nation to identify potentially significant cultural resource sites, develop appropriate interpretive strategies, and review park development and natural resource projects.

Value 3 - Recreation

In the Gorge we value recreation as a way of life, providing an outdoor place to explore, play and recharge through a variety of activities.

Goal 3.1: Provide a seamless recreation experience in the gorge through partnerships with other recreation providers.

Goal 3.2: Locate recreation activities in areas in state parks that demonstrate the beauty of the Gorge.

Goal 3.3: Provide amenities in state parks that support recreational activities that are unique to the Gorge.

Goal 3.4: Provide visitor experiences that allow people to experience multiple landscape settings and features in one visit.

Goal 3.5: When siting recreation facilities, consider impacts to the ecological function of the landscape setting. Design facilities to minimize impacts on natural resources and prescribe strategies for maintaining natural resources, given the increased impacts from the recreational use.

Ecological Recreation Strategies

- 3.5a Identify recreation opportunities in low value natural resource areas.
- 3.5b Reserve high value natural resource areas for minimal or no recreational access.
- 3.5c Educate users about environmentally responsible recreation practices.
- 3.5d Communicate with natural resource specialists when designing recreation facilities.
- 3.5e Utilize the reuse of existing roadways and infrastructure for recreation facilities.
- 3.5f Reduce the amount of existing pavement and minimize the addition of new impervious surface.

Goal 3.6 Manage landscaped areas around recreation facilities with ecologically responsible practices.

Landscape Strategies

- 3.6a Plantings should be native to the landscape setting where the facility occurs.
- 3.6b Plantings should be made in a naturalized style.
- 3.6c Use principles of natural succession to improve habitat quality.
- 3.6d Implement hydrological strategies to restore waterway systems.
- 3.6e In open lawn areas, increase habitat value by diversifying grass mixes and reducing the number of times the lawn is mowed a year.

Goal 3.7: Retain and enhance trail opportunities for a variety of recreation users and abilities.

Hiking Trail Strategies

- 3.7a Retain, develop, and enhance short trip and smaller loop trails for walk-in visitors, families and universal access.
 - Assess existing trails, interior trails and walkways within state parks for universal access, ease of use and safety.
- 3.7b Retain, develop, and enhance amenities at state park trailheads supporting longer hikes and backpacking options on the HCRHST, USFS trails, and roadways.
- 3.7c Partner with other stakeholders in support of Gorge-wide efforts to create continuous through hiking options.
 - Connect gaps in current trail systems within our parks.
- 3.7d Consider partnerships to generate external support for the retention and enhancement of trail opportunities that ease the degradation of trails from overuse.
- 3.7e Consider partnerships to generate external support for the retention and enhancement of trail opportunities that alleviate overcrowding in state park parking lots.
- 3.7f Consider partnerships to generate external support and provide access for trail maintenance on USFS trails that begin in our parks.



Segment of the Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail

Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail (HCRHST) and Bicycle Touring Strategies

- 3.7g Retain and enhance trailhead amenities for people using the HCRHST.
 - Retain and enhance parking at access points to the HCRHST.
 - Retain and enhance the number of restrooms along the HCRHST.
 - Provide bike station stations along the HCRHST providing amenities for bicyclists and minor repairs.
 - Retain and enhance the number of bike-in/walk-in overnight facilities along the HCRHST.
 - Consider partnerships with local communities and businesses to generate external support opportunities for bike share and rental at our parks in the Gorge.

Mountain Biking Strategies

- 3.7h Retain and enhance opportunities for mountain biking in state parks.
 - Support mountain bike trails outside our parks and partner with other recreation organizations hosting mountain biking to provide support facilities where necessary.
 - Increase opportunities for connecting the HCRHST to the Gorge 400, Post Canyon and other established or planned mountain bike trails.

Goal 3.8: Provide excellent destination visitor experiences in state parks, understanding that a collection of varied recreation activities makes for a rich recreation outing.

Land-based Recreation Strategies

Disc Golfing Strategies

- 3.8a Retain and enhance opportunities for disc golfing in state parks.
 - Create natural resource plans for existing disc golf courses that address impacts, and for any new courses to prevent or minimize impacts.

Equestrian Strategies

- 3.8b Retain and enhance opportunities for equestrians in state parks.
 - Support equestrian trails outside our parks and partner with other recreation organizations hosting equestrian trails to provide support facilities where necessary.

Passive Recreation Strategies

- 3.8c Retain and enhance opportunities for group picnicking, art in the park, photography, wildlife viewing and other passive recreation activities.
- 3.8d Provide safe access to viewpoints at state parks in the Gorge.

River-based Recreation Strategies

- 3.8e Retain and enhance river access opportunities in state parks.
 - Sites were identified through the public process as desirable for river access (see Figure 5.1 for a list of sites identified). A Gorge-wide pedestrian river access feasibility study will determine the feasibility of potential railroad access points on OPRD property throughout the Gorge, based on available land, potential recreation opportunities and natural resource impacts.

Fishing Strategies

- 3.8f Retain and enhance opportunities for fishing in state parks.
 - Add fish cleaning stations at boat ramps and major fishing locations throughout the Gorge.
 - Ensure fishing regulations are posted at established fishing access points.



Windsurfers on the Columbia River

Boating Strategies

- 3.8g Retain and enhance access to the river for personal watercraft, canoes, and kayaks in state parks.
 - Increase number of access points.
 - Develop support facilities for longer overnight trips on the Columbia River and Sandy River water trails.
- 3.8h Retain and enhance access to the river for motor boats in state parks.
 - Partner with Oregon State Marine Board to find long-term solution to boat ramp silting at Rooster Rock.

Swimming Strategies

- 3.8i Retain and enhance river access for swimming in state parks.
 - Support City of Portland and metro area initiatives to enhance swimming opportunities near cities and on the Willamette River, relieving strain on the Gorge rivers on hot days.

Waterfowl Hunting Strategies

- 3.8j Clarify waterfowl hunting permission at state parks in the Gorge.
 - Maintain existing waterfowl hunting at state parks, assess areas where hunting is possible for potential conflicts, and update signage where necessary to be safe, consistent and foolproof.
 - Work with ODFW and local sheriff's departments to enforce illegal hunting in prohibited areas.

Windsporting Strategies

- 3.8k Retain and enhance opportunities for windsports in state parks.
 - Retain and enhance facilities for increased coordination of kiteboarding and windsurfing with other river-based recreation.

Goal 3.9: Retain the current day use areas in the park, enhancing the facilities to better support recreation activities and interpretive features.

Day Use Strategies

- 3.9a Enhance parking lots strategically to relieve strain on crowded parks during prime summer months.
 - Continue to work with local sheriff's departments to increase parking enforcement and fees for violation.
 - Increase the size of parking lots where overcrowding occurs currently in compliance with NSAMP.
 - Utilize existing turf and other practical land parcels as seasonal overflow parking at parks where there is overcrowding.
 - Explore specific all day parking options for backpackers and hikers while providing limited-term spaces for shorter visits.
 - Explore adding Day Use fees at parks that are impacted by parking to promote carpooling, and contribute to cost of parking and crowd management.
- 3.9b Highlight connections to popular amenities at under utilized parking lots at parks, trailheads, and on the state park website, i.e.: Multnomah Falls via Trail 400 at Ainsworth, Benson as potential access to Multnomah Falls during off-season use.
- 3.9c Increase shoulder season recreation in our parks.
- 3.9d Retain and enhance opportunities for picnic shelters and event spaces for large groups.
- 3.9e Retain and enhance opportunities for self-guided interpretation in state parks.
 - Design interactive elements that encourage active participation or movement through a park, while providing historical information. (For example: Gorge Jr. Ranger Passport that highlights natural resource and cultural activities at each park.)
 - Include interpretation that references the history and practices of Gorge-based recreation activities.

- o Continue to identify additional methods of coordinating and implementing interpretation programs through the efforts of volunteers, partners, friends groups, etc. (For example: Continue to work closely with Friends of the Vista House on interpretive features and events at Crown Point.)
- 3.9f Retain and enhance opportunities for guided outdoor skills programs.
 - o Retain and enhance ‘Let’s Go’ opportunities in the Gorge, providing low-cost introductory recreation experiences.

Goal 3.10: Retain and enhance overnight camping opportunities.

Overnight Strategies

- 3.10a Design Gorge-specific cabins or structures in overnight parks so visitors can participate without gear.
 - o Design soundproof dwellings when near freeway or railroad, constructed in a manner compatible with the NSAMP.
- 3.10b Develop additional Hiker/Biker camping options in the Gorge to support the HCRHST and backpacking trips through the Gorge.
- 3.10c Implement bear-proof refuse systems in all state parks as bears have been sighted in the Gorge, even in populated areas and near the railroad.



Temporary Trail Sign at Ainsworth State Park

Goal 3.11: Improve wayfinding in the Gorge for motorists, pedestrians and trail users.

Wayfinding Strategies

- 3.11a Partner with ODOT and other agencies to implement the *Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail Wayfinding Signage Plan* (ODOT, 2013). Improve orientation and provide information within state parks that conform to the plan, i.e. adopt a similar strategy for hiking trails in the Gorge and partner with the USFS to implement it.
- 3.11b Provide maps and information at state parks and on the website designed to let visitors efficiently find their way in advance, or when arriving with no prior knowledge of the Gorge.
 - o Use the color Latourell Falls trail or HCRHST map that provides detailed information and alternate trailheads as a precedent for each trailhead.
 - o Design maps that list alternate locations for hiking and walking for various skill levels, i.e. “This hike is a challenging 4 hour hike. Are you looking for an easy one hour hike? Try Bridal Veil Falls instead. Looking for a moderate 3 hour hike... etc.”.
 - o Develop ‘Gorge Docent’ volunteer positions (using the Silver Falls model) at popular stops to provide information and educational facts.
- 3.11c Make trail information available in partnership with other organizations at trailheads, intersections and online.
 - o Retain and enhance trail markers at effective points to keep hikers on path and protect natural resources.
 - o Develop a consistent semi-permanent trail marker system (i.e. Carsonite post) at junctions allowing people to identify their location in case of emergency.
 - o Add a smartphone scanner code with link to trail map and emergency contact phone number, using USFS model for trailhead maps.
- 3.11d Develop all signs to be consistent with NSAMP signage guidelines and HCRHST sign plan and limit them to locations where they are most effective.



Red Columbine Flowering in the Gorge

Goal 3.12: Retain and enhance park facilities, circulation, operations and maintenance to support the state parks mission and facilitate efficient and effective management.

Value 4 - Natural Resources

We value protection and enhancement of the unique habitats, characteristic of the Columbia Gorge landscape, that support a diverse range of species.

Goal 4.1: Preserve and protect high quality, rare and native plant communities in the Gorge.

Native Plant Preservation Strategies

- 4.1a Utilize OPRD natural resource assessments to prioritize preservation and restoration projects.
- 4.1b Work with partners (Native Plant Society of Oregon, others) to locate rare, threatened or endangered plant populations for protection.
- 4.1c Work with partners to engage in habitat restoration efforts that seek to restore large acreages of native plant communities, or that will reduce habitat fragmentation.
- 4.1d Protect known rare, threatened or endangered plant populations where they are being threatened by human activities.

Goal 4.2: Identify priority invasive plants for control. Work with partners to leverage funding and cross-jurisdictional coordination of control efforts.

Goal 4.3: Develop restoration and enhancement options for degraded or high value natural resources in state parks.

Restoration and Enhancement Strategies

- 4.3a Implement strategies recommended in ODFW's Oregon Conservation Strategy.
- 4.3b Partner with organizations working in the Gorge on natural resource enhancement and restoration efforts to leverage funding and improve outcomes.
- 4.3c Develop tree planting and landscape guidelines for landscaped areas in conjunction with the NSAMP.
 - o Use native, drought tolerant, non-invasive species in developed area plantings.

Goal 4.4: Review forest management plan to improve forest health including forest thinning projects.

Forestry Strategies

- 4.4a Refer to OPRD Forest Management Policy to reduce the risk of catastrophic loss of forest resources from insects, disease, and fire, maintain or enhance the diversity, productivity, and integrity of native forest systems, and reduce risk of injury to park visitors.
- 4.4b Limit tree removals, while managing hazard trees according to OPRD policy and natural resource assessments. Limit removal of oak trees, wildlife snags, and other high value or rare trees where possible.
- 4.4c Reduce wildfire intensities by assessing fuel reduction needs.
- 4.4d Manage forests to reduce pest outbreaks.
- 4.4e Add defensible space around structures in state parks to protect them from risk of fire damage.

Goal 4.5: Protect wildlife and enhance habitat quality in the Gorge.

Wildlife Protection Strategies

- 4.5a Utilize OPRD wildlife assessments to prioritize habitat enhancement and protection projects.
- 4.5b Restore wildlife movement corridors throughout the Gorge by reducing habitat fragmentation, and by identifying and protecting existing corridors.
 - o Develop wildlife crossings and culverts where appropriate to protect wildlife from roadways and trails.
- 4.5c Identify wildlife reserves within park properties where no development, or only passive, low impact development, will take place.
- 4.5d Develop recreation in consideration of potential impacts on fragile habitats.
- 4.5e Create or retain snags and downed wood within forested areas to increase habitat.



Earth Day Tree Planting Event

- 4.5f Replant under utilized mown areas with native species and enhance grassland areas with native seed mixes.
- 4.5g Respond to new threats posed by invasive animals in a timely manner, working with ODFW and other partner agencies.
- 4.5h Limit development to areas currently developed.
- 4.5i Protect sensitive natural resources, especially waterways, wetlands, waterfalls, cliff faces, talus slopes and mature upland and riparian forests.
- 4.5j Avoid development in wetlands and near streams, where possible.
- 4.5k Limit tree removal and avoid removal of trees and woody vegetation during March 1 – August 31, in accordance with the MBTA.
- 4.5l Add small-scale wildlife features, such as loafing logs, bat boxes, and wood duck boxes.

Goal 4.6: Preserve and protect watershed health in the Gorge.

Watershed Protection Strategies

- 4.6a Develop river and stream restoration plans.
- 4.6b Develop wetland restoration plans and avoid development within wetland areas.
- 4.6c Incorporate aquatic invasive species prevention methods at all water access points.
- 4.6d Manage and treat or infiltrate stormwater runoff from paved surfaces and parking lots.
- 4.6e Manage pets in ecologically sensitive areas and on beaches to protect river ecology. Provide pet waste bags and receptacles at all designated dog off-leash areas.
- 4.6f Work with partners, such as Cooperative Weed Management agencies, on coordinated early detection of and rapid response to high-threat invasive species.

Goal 4.7 Contribute to clean air quality in the Gorge.

Air Quality Strategies

- 4.7a Identify opportunities to limit carbon emissions in our parks.

Goal 4.8: Retain and enhance natural resource focused partnerships with stakeholders and organizations to increase the potential for successful restoration and preservation projects across land ownership boundaries in the Gorge.

Natural Resource Partnership Strategies

- 4.8a Share natural resource data collected during planning process with Gorge stakeholders and organizations.
- 4.8b Partner with stakeholders and organizations to generate external support for restoration and preservation projects.
 - o Retain and enhance partnership with ODF on forestry management and ODFW on stream and river habitat improvements.
 - o Retain and enhance partnership with Columbia Gorge Ecology Institute on species lists and events.

- o Retain and enhance partnership with Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership and other organizations on funding for natural resource projects.

Goal 4.9: Retain and enhance interpretive elements and volunteer programs that cultivate stewardship in park visitors.

Natural Resource Education Strategies

- 4.9a Retain and enhance opportunities for environmental education in state parks
 - o Promote 'Leave No Trace' principles in interpretive features.
 - o Retain and enhance school and youth group field trips at Vista House, Rooster Rock, Ainsworth and explore new opportunities for environmental education at other parks.
 - o Retain and enhance 'Adopt-a-park' or 'Adopt-a-plot' programs for individual or group stewardship opportunities at selected areas throughout the Gorge.
 - o Retain and enhance citizen science programs, like 'Wildflower Frenzy' or 'Pika Watch', to train volunteers to identify and record various species, raising awareness of natural resources in our parks, while providing data sets.
 - Enhance these programs long term through partnerships to generate the external support necessary to perform needed maintenance, while also monitoring changes over time and managing data.
- 4.9b Develop communication and recreation elements that tell the story of natural resource preservation in the Gorge.
 - o Showcase natural resources with a 'boardwalk through the wetlands' or similar recreation feature, designed with minimal ecological impacts.
 - o Design wildflower, old growth, and native tree stand viewing areas to provide recreation access to these species without damaging them.
 - o Design wildlife viewing areas highlighting fish, bird and other species native to the Gorge to provide access to these species without harming them.
 - o Develop signage or other less resource intensive communication tools for tourists in the Gorge about local resource protection.



People Enjoying Vista House

- o Increase public education on park property preservation and maintenance requirements.
- o Create 'value added' volunteer stewardship opportunities in limited access areas of park that highlight unique natural resources, while performing needed restoration or maintenance projects.
- 4.9c Retain and enhance volunteer planting and invasive removal programs with youth that encourage lifelong investment in state parks.

Value 5 - Community

We value the connections that the Gorge provides and being a part of the communities that interact along a shared path.

Goal 5.1: Plan state parks in the Gorge as a series of integrated experiences to provide an efficient network of recreation facilities that support the larger regional experience.

Regional Planning Strategies

- 5.1a Recognize the overlap of visitor experiences and provide diversified recreation activities, programs, interpretation, scenic viewpoints, access to natural resources, and basic facilities, using an organized and strategic approach.
- 5.1b Prioritize improvements that enhance and contribute to the overall touring experience.
- 5.1c Prioritize acquisitions that most effectively fulfill the state park mission, as well as this plan's values and goals, when identifying opportunities for additional park properties.

Goal 5.2: Develop strategies for increasing universal access in state parks.

Universal Access Strategies

- 5.2a: Provide access to primary recreation activities in each park.
- 5.2b: Improve universal access circulation in day use and overnight areas to basic facilities like bathrooms and information stations.
- 5.2c: Prioritize facility development and major maintenance for projects that improve or increase universal access.

Goal 5.3: Develop strategies for engaging emerging and underserved demographics in state parks.

Outreach Strategies

- 5.3a Increase survey, website, and outreach materials to capture non-English speaking populations, elderly and younger park visitors.



Hikers at Bridal Veil Falls

- o Investigate methods of outreach to establish relationships with underserved and underrepresented community groups so we can better engage in future developments.
- 5.3b Partner with organizations to increase park experiences for underserved communities.
- 5.3c Continue to develop programs to provide outreach to underserved communities in our parks, such as urban classroom visits, field trips, and service learning opportunities.
- 5.3d Expand and increase low cost, introductory recreation opportunities like the Let's Go program to include backpacking, bicycle touring, wildlife viewing, windsports, and other recreation activities that define the Gorge experience.

Goal 5.4: Reduce visitor safety incidences in the Gorge.

Visitor Safety Strategies

- 5.4a Assess communication strategies to provide visitors with the information to make safe recreation decisions; including trail signage (content), interpretive programs, printed materials, and web content.
- 5.4b Prioritize budget and personnel to maintain existing facilities, alleviating safety hazards.
 - o Repair trails and walkways damaged by roots and wildlife, creating hazards.
 - o Assess lighting conditions in existing parks for safety.
 - o Use signage when necessary to warn visitors of potential hazards.

- o Reduce moss and algae on pathways, causing slipping hazards.
- o Assess landslide and rock fall risks, especially along HCRHST.
- o Address alcohol consumption, especially at Lewis and Clark and Dabney.
- o Assess areas to discourage transient usage in parks.
- o Review management practices at parks suffering from overcrowding.
- 5.4c Clarify land ownership to increase responsibility for potential hazards.

Goal 5.5: Reduce Crime incidences in the Gorge.

Crime Prevention Strategies

- 5.5a Investigate and assess strategies to make OPRD parking lots in the Gorge less inviting to vehicle thefts.
 - o Reference Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) strategies for enhancing problematic areas in state parks.
 - Natural Surveillance: Maintaining the environment so people can be easily seen by park management and visitors.
 - Natural Access Control: Use natural features to define where visitors should walk or not.
 - Territoriality: Distinguish public recreation areas by maintaining them.
 - Maintenance: Only build what an agency can maintain.
 - o Develop a ‘Trail Docent’ volunteer position that puts eyes on the ground near parking areas at high risk areas.
 - o Continue Partnerships with local Multnomah County Sheriff department citizen patrol group to patrol the west end of the Gorge. Look into establishing a similar system in the eastern Gorge.
 - o Budget for increased security.